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TELCON  
Sec Kissinger/Marvin Kalb  
11/8/76; 12 Noon

RELEASED IN FULL

SK/32

Kalb: I wanted to say no matter who he is, he will not be you.

K: Aren't you nice. I just hope you put him through the same scrutiny you did me.

MK: Never mind. You got off easy.

K: I did and don't think I don't know it.

MK: How do you feel, okay?

K: I feel fine.

MK: I was talking to Koppel and we wanted to burst into your New Year's party. At Caneel Bay.

K: I may not go to Caneel Bay.

MK: I thought if you were going . . .

K: Are you going there?

MK: (His wife) and I have been there almost ten years and I thought I would try it. But I thought I don't want to surprise him.

K: We may not go. It depends a little on the transition. I am going to take a few months or a week off after January 20.

MK: You should. You could certainly use a little bit of a rest.

K: How is your book coming?

MK: The mystery is coming along very well. The best parts always relate between the Secretary of State and this extraordinary television reporter.

K: I saw your publisher and he thinks it is terrific.

MK: Marshal and Porter?

K: I forget who it is. Somebody who said he is head of Simon and Shuster.

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MK: You were very much in my mind through Tuesday evening of last week and I told you once at the birthday party something that is true and no matter who replaces you, it cannot be the same and you were in this job in a fairly unique position for a reporter.

K: I am touched. I considered you and Bernie good friends as far as the adversary relationship permits it and I will continue to consider it that.

MK: I learned a lot and from that if someone is wise or foolish enough to put me into a government job, what I learned will be put to use.

K: I have always believed you and Ted and some of the others ought to spend a year or two in the government to round your perspectives.

MK: I was at the State Department for two years in '56 in Moscow at the Embassy.

K: If the new people ask my opinion and you don't prohibit it, will you permit me to mention you as a possibility?

MK: Yes.

K: They may not have enough imagination to think of it themselves.

MK: You know my area of interest and passion. The fundamental thing is to carry on a policy that gives Israel the best chance of surviving and maintains a strong, growing, viable American position in the Arab world. It has been your position.

K: And which reduced the Soviet influence to do mischief.

MK: Since Tuesday they are suddenly getting very cosy. They feel there is an opportunity for them.

K: Oh, yes. There is a hiatus now. I think Carter has to move quickly to make clear that he is in charge in the Middle East.

MK: I hope he does because there is too much sweat and too many miles that went into getting us where we are now. We had a line in the book that we put in as a joke that when Kissinger leaves he is going to set up an international corporation called Kissinger, Inc. and whenever a government needed a negotiator, it would turn to Kissinger, Inc.

K: (Laughter)

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MK: Well, will you allow several of us to have a quiet dinner for you and Nancy?

K: I would love it.

MK: I would like to proceed on that and I will check with Jane to see what evening you might be free.

K: That is very nice.

MK: Good luck.

K: Thank you.

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